Government has given fresh thrust to double the food production in next ten years adopting regionally differentiated growth strategies, creation of farming infrastructure and more efficient use of resources.

Adulteration of Pesticides

474. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMA CHANDRA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State:

(a) whether instances of adulteration of pesticides in a big way has come to the notice of Government;

(b) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has asked the Central Government to bring forward amendments to the Insecticides Act, 1968;

(c) if so, the response of Government in this regard; and

(d) the likely date by which the Bill to bring forward the amendment to the Iteecticides Act will be introduced in the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) In analysis of pesticides done by this State Pesticides Testing Laboratories (SPTLs) across the country, about 3 to 4% of pesticide samples were found to be misbranded. Whenever any substandard pesticides are found, necessary prosecutions are launched by the States/UTs against the manufacturers/Suppliers.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Amendments to certain provisions of Insecticides Act, 1968 are under consideration.

Productivity of Crops

475. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State:

(a) wherher ther is a wide variation in the productivea of crops across diffe pern t regtions in the country ;

(b) if so the details thereof and

(c) the steps taken by Government to increse [rpdictovotu and cropping density ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The variation in the productivity of major crops/ crop groups viz. rice, wheat, pulses, total foodgrains, oilseeds, sugarcane and cotton is given in the Statement *(See* below).

(c) In order to increase the production and productivity of various crops in the country, the Government is implementing crop specific and area specific development programmes and schemes in which incentives are provided to farmers for use of quality seeds and location specific hybrid varieties, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation, improved farm implements. Besides, field demonstration on farmers holdings including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology. Further in the National Agenda for governance, the Government has given fresh thrust to double the food production in the next ten years adopting regionally differentiated growth strategies, creation of farming infrastructure and more efficient use of resources.

Statement

Average yield of major crops during 1997-98

(Yield-Kg/hectare)

State	Rice	Wheat	Total Pulses	Total Oilseeds		Sugar-cane	Cotton
				Food-grains			
Andhra Pradesh	2412	—	391	1677	583	71531	246
Assam	1394	1167	575	1342	551	42424	—
Bihar	1414	2031	763	1525	650	37176	—
Gujarat	1548	2471	737	1365	1323	71935	317
Haryana	2797	3684	879	2696	835	53169	301
Himachal Pradesh	1329	1507	698	1577	444	34750	—
Jammu & Kashmir	2986	1600	710	2042	646	—	—
Karnataka	2356	777	261	1185	567	87066	323
Kerala	2033	—	864	1941	611	90167	283
Madhya Pradesh	812	1625	648	972	949	37679	306
Maharashtra	1630	904	381	764	692	76000	395
Orissa	1392	—	368	1202	508	58524	278
Punjab	3465	3850	690	3597	1204	56202	220
Rajasthan	1166	2500	595	1021	745	50391	229
Tamil Nadu	2987	—	488	2045	1253	110542	276
Uttar Pradesh	2148	2594	839	2077	804	59430	227
West Bengal	2275	2403	658	2216	873	71500	—
ALL. INDIA	1906	2515	573	1561	849	66547	214

Drought Affected Districts of Orissa

476. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State:

(a) the names and the number of districts in Orissa affected by drought during this year;

(b) the relief and rehabilitation measures undertaken in those districts; and

(c) the details of the Central assistance extended to the State for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The Government of Orissa has stated that the names and number of districts affected by drought can be known after receipt of final crop loss assessment reports from the districts. However, according to them, preliminary estimates indicate that about one-third of the total area of the State has been severely affected by drought during this year.